

Recommendations

Report from the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee to Governor's Forest Health Advisory and Oversight Councils

Thursday, January 13, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

Request: With guidance from the Advisory Council, the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee (M&A) was asked to propose a successor as Chair and to reassess the structure of the subcommittee. The Advisory Council also asked the M&A to identify some specific short and longer term priority issues to be addressed by the M&A.

Structure

- The M&A should exist and carry on into the future as a subcommittee.
- The M&A should be responsive to the requests of the Advisory Council and Oversight Committee.
- The M&A should have a core of active members with representation across jurisdictions and interests (i.e., federal, state, tribal, local government as well as non-government organizations).
- The M&A should continue to involve the broader interested audience (currently there are 90 people across Arizona who have made contributions and are on our mailing list).
- The M&A proposes a Chair and several Co-Chairs, each with different affiliations to help ensure broader representation across organizational and jurisdictional boundaries. Elected by the M&A and proposed to the Advisory Council:
 - Chair:
 - Barron Orr, University of Arizona
 - Co-Chairs
 - Local Representation: Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire District
 - State Representation: Gene Trobia, State Cartographers Office
 - Federal Representation: Don VanDriel, Tonto National Forest
- The M&A proposes to address different mapping and assessment issues through informal working groups, created and dissolved upon need, that report back to the M&A.
 - Proposed Working Groups:
 - Geospatial Data Standards
 - Assessment Standards
 - Data Provider Communications & Historical Data Issues
 - CWPP Mapping Methods/Accuracy Assessment
 - Website Coordination
 - M&A Issues Associated with Treatment Effectiveness (future)
- Where a project (such as Arizona FIRE MAP) is necessary to address an issue, the M&A Subcommittee should spin it off as a self-contained project with its own internal / external reporting mechanisms.
 - In this sense the M&A would play more the role of an advisory board rather than project manager.
 - It would also serve as a technical liaison between projects it helped create and the Advisory Council.

- The M&A would also work with the Advisory Council to identify funds to help launch such projects.

Purpose and Priorities

- Though the M&A was created with the primary purpose of mapping fuels projects, it will work to be responsive to forest health mapping and assessment issues in general.
- Arizona FIRE MAP is considered an independent project (rather than a working group) that will continue to report back to the M&A Subcommittee about its progress, challenges faced etc.
 - Glen Buettner and Gene Trobia agreed to continue to keep the M&A Subcommittee informed about Arizona FIRE MAP
- M&A is not a regulatory committee however we may identify a policy questions that could address the efficiency and effectiveness of mapping and assessment as these impact forest health.
- The M&A identified priorities from the perspective of mapping and assessment challenges based on earlier Advisory Council requests.
 - Spatial/tabular data standards & normalization
 - Communication with major data providers
 - Historical data and the importance of having it added to Arizona FIRE MAP in future phases
 - Assessment standards
 - Transparency in mapping methodologies, accuracy assessment, etc. used in CWPP, Firewise Recognition and any other forest health-related product used for decision making
 - While the Subcommittee felt many of the products out there are good, without some idea of methods and accuracy assessment, it is very difficult to determine the utility of a mapping / spatial modeling product
 - Technology capacity of providers and communities
 - ID most important fields and primary key of M&A-related datasets
 - M&A issues associated with the digital integration of quality/effectiveness measures for treatments into the fuels treatments database (future)
 - This is considered a “future” item – the M&A can pick this up after common standards are set by the variety of entities conducting treatments. For example:
 - FireWise Recognition
 - FRCC (measure of restoration)
 - Risk Reduction (a federal measure)
 - Guidance for spin-off projects / grants / funds that address key data fields for reporting (such as the treatment effectiveness issue)
 - Information sharing
 - Coordination and communication of projects within agencies that are compatible and avoid redundancy and duplicated effort.
 - Website coordination (dealing with redundancy/replication issues)
 - Assisting the Advisory Council in identifying funding for Arizona FIRE MAP phases II and III
 - Periodic recommendations to the advisory council to facilitate/standardize/streamline the collection and reporting of M&A data across the broad spectrum of organizations and initiatives involved with forest health